

OPEN BURNING RESPONSES 2008 -2014

JANUARY 26, 2015

**McHenry County Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health
2200 N Seminary Ave
Woodstock IL 60098
815-334-4585**



HISTORY OF CURRENT OPEN BURNING RESTRICTIONS

Open Burning
Forum
Established

McHenry County Board
Approved Revised
Ordinance
December 4, 2007

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

April 1, 2008
Effective Date

OPEN BURNING RESTRICTIONS

- ❑ All Areas of McHenry County**
- ❑ Onsite-generated Landscape Waste**
- ❑ General Restrictions**
 - 100 ft from Habitable Structures**
 - 50 ft. from Non-habitable Structures**
 - April, May, October and November**
 - Saturdays and Sundays**
 - Dawn to Dusk**
 - Winds 10 mph or Less**
 - Supervised by Adult**
 - Water/Extinguisher Source**

EXEMPTIONS

- **500 ft From Habitable Structures – No Time Restrictions**
- **Recreational Campfires: 3' x 3' x 3' or less**
 - Excludes refuse, grass, leaves (including on branches)
- **Bonfires: > 3' x 3' x 3'**
 - Requires MCDH permit
 - Ceremonial not disposal
 - Excludes refuse, grass, leaves (including on branches)
- **Firefighter Training**
 - Requires IEPA – Bureau of Air permit
- **Habitat reclamation/Prescribed burns**
 - Requires IEPA – Bureau of Air permit
- **Domestic Fireplaces, External Fireplaces or Grills, or Self-Contained Outdoor Wood-Burning Devices**

OUTREACH

- **Education**
- **Promote Alternatives**
- **Franchised Solid Waste Services:**
Wonder Lake, Pistakee Highlands, Spring Grove, Crystal Lake
- **Nunda Township Referendum**

ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS

- **McHenry County Department of Health**
- **Local Law Enforcement Agencies**
- **Fire Departments/Fire Protection Districts**

ESCALATING ENFORCEMENT

❑ Protocol

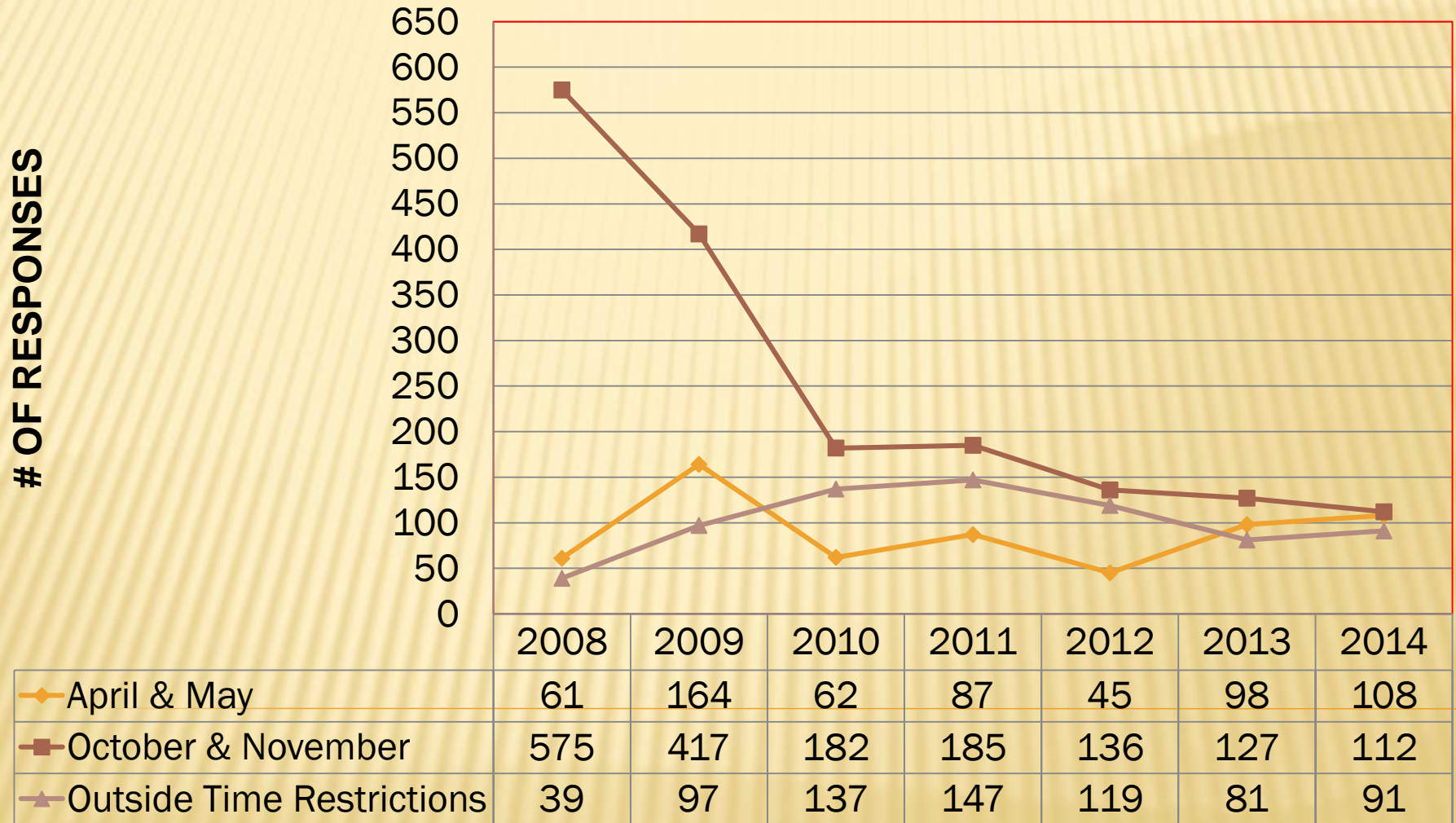
- **1st Offense: Warning Letter**
- **2nd Offense: Violation Notice**
- **3rd Offense: Legal Action**
- **Garbage/Refuse Burning: Violation Notice**

❑ Extended Staff Coverage

OVERALL OPEN BURNING RESPONSES

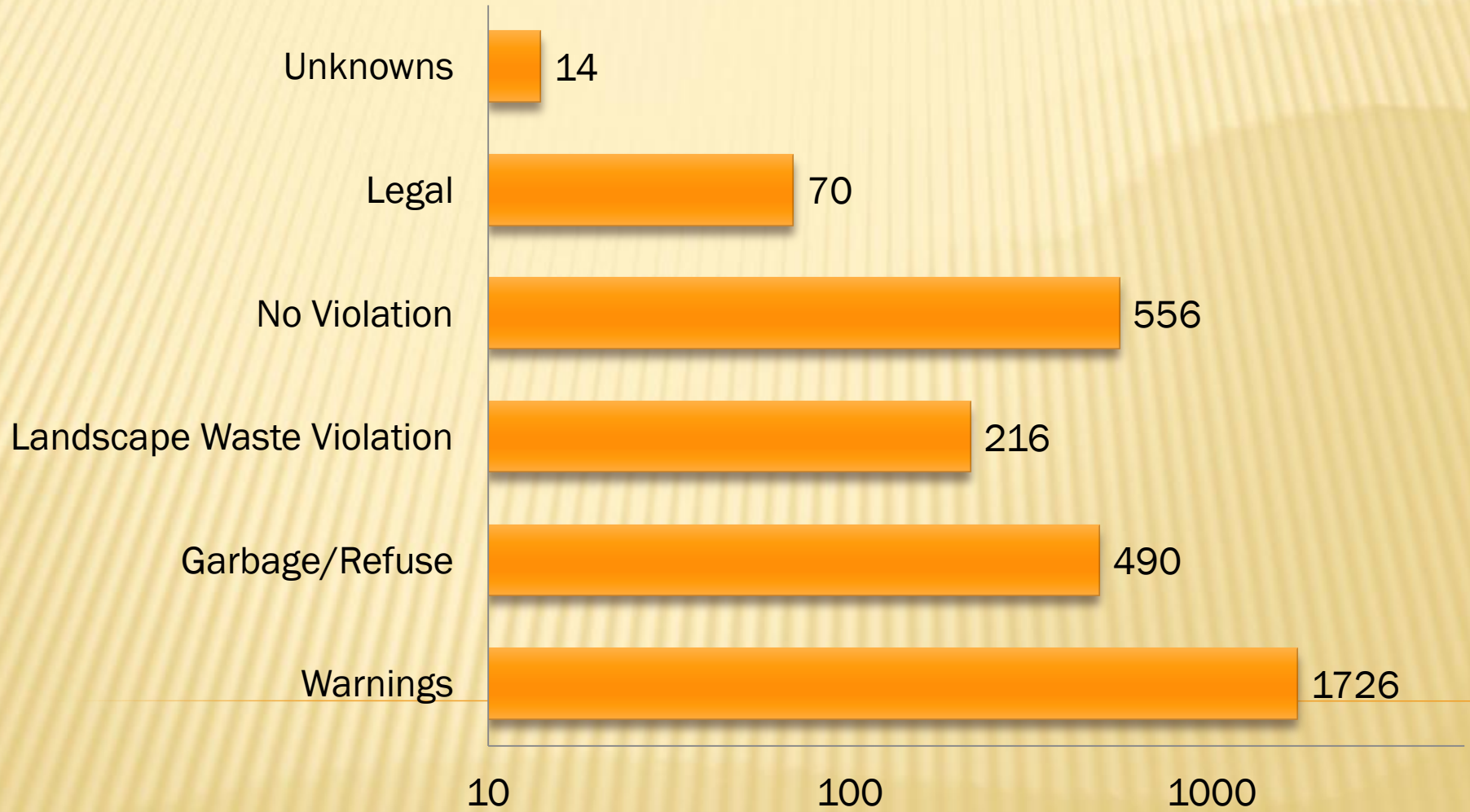


OPEN BURNING RESPONSES SEASONAL GRAPH

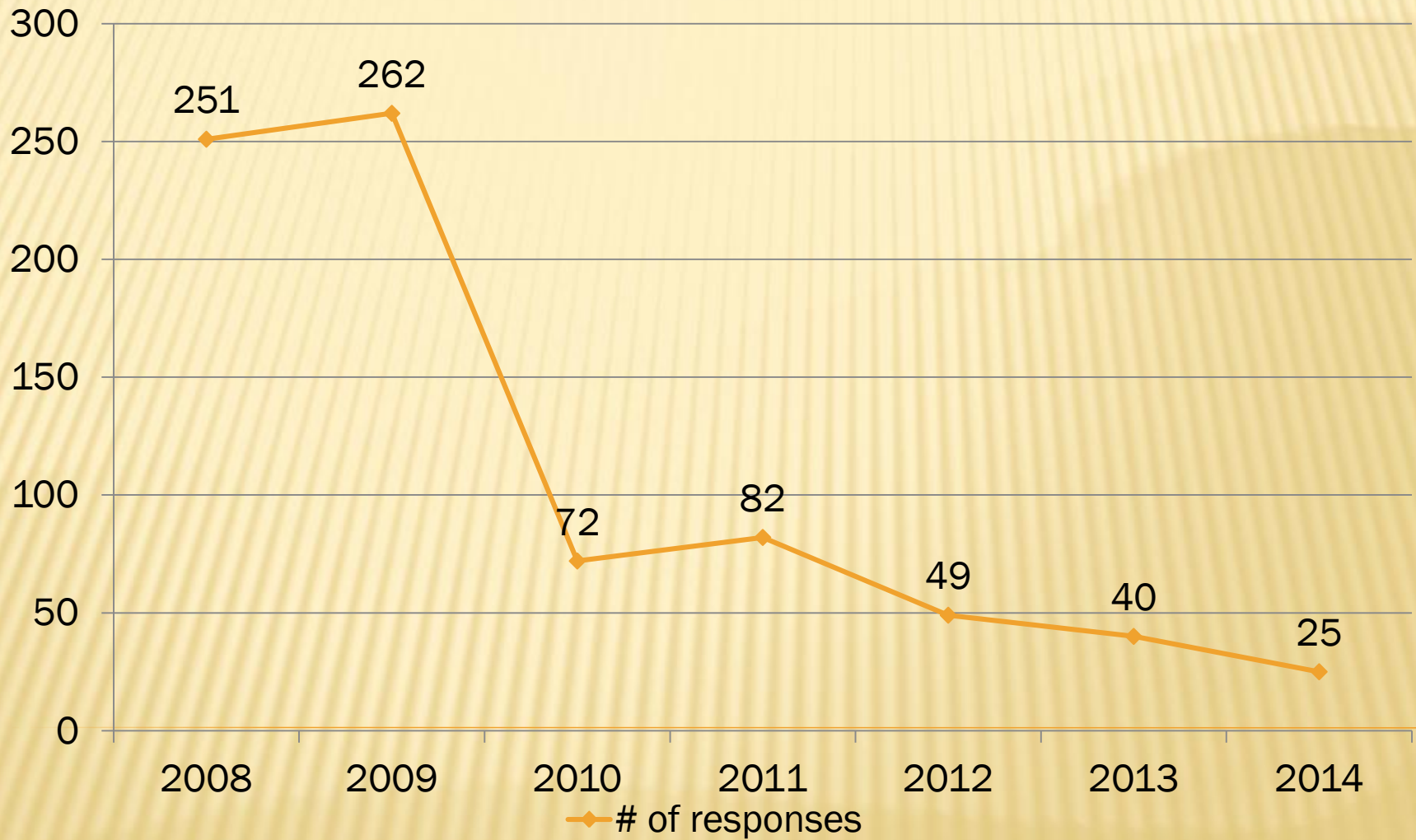


OPEN BURNING RESPONSE TYPES

2008 - 2014



Wonder Lake/Pistakee Highlands Open Burning Responses



POTENTIAL ORDINANCE ISSUES

- **Supervised Burning**
 - ✗ Not defined, open to interpretation
- **Bonfires & Recreational Fires**
 - ✗ Frequency, no restrictions
- **Self-contained Outdoor Wood Burning**
 - ✗ Not defined clearly
- **Non-habitable Structure**
 - ✗ More Complete List
- **Impacts of Compliant Burning**
 - ✗ Underlying conditions, adjacent municipalities

RECONVENED OPEN BURNING FORUM

- + 2 Meetings**
- + 6 – 7 Attendees**
- + Provided Response Data**
- + Identified Problems/Potential Improvements**
- + Solicited Comments/Recommendations**

COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Compliant burning impacts adjacent properties/municipalities**
- **Residents continue to violate Ordinance**
- **Enforcing partners need more training**
- **Not all Villages/Agencies enforce Ordinance well**
- **Farmers do not meet comply with restrictions**
- **Consider reorganizing Ordinance**
- **Prohibit open burning in franchised areas**
- **Exempt natural wood landscaping**
- **Discontinue warning letters**
- **Consider permit for any burning**
- **Consider deputizing residents**
- **Utilize realtors to share information**
- **Remove weekend day restrictions**
- **Increase setbacks**
- **Decrease setbacks**
- **Increase penalties**